

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Add new claims 12- 17.
2. Apprise the Examiner of the simultaneous filing of a verified translation of the priority document.
3. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

In the prior prosecution, claims 1, 2 and 4 stood rejected under 35 USC 102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 stood rejected under 35 USC 102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication 2003/0098216 to Hayashi. Claims 6, 7-9 and 11 stood rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication 2003/0098216 to Hayashi in view of U.S. Publication 2004/0026201 to Imasaka et al. Other dependent claims have sustained prior art rejections premised on combinations of the foregoing references with one or more further references.

Claims 1 - 11

All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al.

It is respectfully requested that U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al. be withdrawn as a reference. U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al. has a US filing

date of April 14, 2003, which is subsequent to Applicants' Japanese priority date of February 28, 2003. Simultaneously with the electronically filing of this Amendment and RCE, Applicants submit through the PTO mailroom a verified translation of Applicants' priority document in accordance with MPEP § 201.15. Therefore, U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al. is overcome, and should be removed as a reference.

U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi

U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi provides a first one-way clutch assembly 66 located between rotary shaft 16 and an inner cylindrical portion 17L of a pulley 17 (see Fig. 4). The first one-way clutch assembly 66 includes an outer ring 69 and an inner ring 70. The inner ring 70 is fixedly connected to the outer circumferential surface of rotary shaft 16 and is surrounded by outer ring 69. Balls 71 are circumferentially arranged between outer ring 69 and inner ring 70 so that outer ring 69 rotates relative to inner ring 70. A plurality of recesses 72 are formed in the inner circumferential wall of outer ring 69 at equiangular positions around rotary shaft 16. Each recess 72 accommodates a roller 74. *See, e.g.,* paragraphs 0050 – 0051 of U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi. U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi also discloses a second one-way clutch assembly 85 between rotor 83 and rotary shaft 16. The second one-way clutch assembly 85 has substantially the same structure as the first one-way clutch assembly 66. Inner ring 70 is fixedly connected to connecting member 86 that is secured to the outer circumferential surface of rotary shaft 16. *See, e.g.,* paragraph 0060.

The first inner ring of U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi *does not have an annular recess provided in its inner periphery*, as required by independent claim 1. Nor does Hayashi teach or disclose "an exterior surface of the first inner ring has a curved contour for defining an annular recess which accommodates at least a portion of the

second one-way clutch between the first one-way clutch and a rotating shaft" as required by independent claim 7.

In fact, the first inner ring 70 of U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi is relatively square in cross section as seen in Fig. 4. The first and second clutches of U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi may be somewhat overlapping in the axially sense along shaft 16, but such overlapping is caused by the stepped configuration of pulley 17, not first inner ring 70.

The annular recess provided in Applicant's first clutch inner ring advantageously allows both the first and second clutch to directly contact the rotating shaft, and yet be compact in an axial direction along shaft 16. Such advantages are not realized or suggested by the applied prior art.

Claims 12 - 17

All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the new claims..

New dependent claims 12 and 13 (dependent upon independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, specify that the inner rings of both of Applicant's clutches directly contact the rotating shaft. Neither U.S. Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al. nor U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi teach both a first inner ring and a second inner ring directly contacting a rotating shaft. Hayashi does teach a first inner ring 70 which contacts rotating shaft 16¹, but Hayashi's second one-way clutch is remotely fixedly connected to shaft 16 (see paragraph 0060). Similarly, the inner ring 17a of U.S.

¹ Therefore, this distinction of previously amended independent claim 1 (regarding contact of the first inner ring) over the previously cited prior art may not be viable for the most recent rejections.

Publication 2003/0194263 to Ueda et al. is not directly connected to shaft 22, but through intermediate elements 18a and 19.

New dependent claims 14 and 15 (dependent upon independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, specify that Applicant's first clutch member has its inner ring configured to have different diameters (relative to the rotational axis) for its engagement-cam surface 7a and its raceway surface 7b, in order to provide sufficient thickness of the inner ring between the annular recess 67 and the raceway surface. *See, e.g.*, paragraph 0042 on pages 18 and 19 of the specification. Similarly, the second clutch member has its outer ring 14 configured to have different diameters (relative to the rotational axis) for its engagement-cam surface 14a and its raceway surface 14b, in order to provide sufficient thickness of a portion of the inner ring that is disposed in the annular recess 67. *See, e.g.*, paragraph 0043 on pages 19 and 20 of the specification.

New dependent claims 16 and 17 (dependent upon independent claims 1 and 7, respectively, specify relative radial positioning of Applicants' clutches relative to the shaft and their driving mechanism. Specifically, Applicant's engine-driven first clutch has the first engagement surface of the first inner ring positioned further from the rotating shaft than the second engagement surface of the motor-driven second clutch. This is opposite in U.S. Publication 2003/0103848 to Hayashi.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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